

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Knight Close, Crookham,
Fleet, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and Lizzi Lewins

Site Code: KCH15/57

(SU 7910 5256)

Land at Knight Close, Crookham Fleet, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Taylor Wimpey West London**

by Daniel Bray and Lizzi Lewins
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KCH 15/57

November 2015

Summary

Site name: Land at Knight Close, Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 7910 5256

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 1st June–26th October 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray and Tim Dawson

Site code: KCH 15/57

Area of site: 1.68ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed that much of the underlying geology of the site had been disturbed by construction of a terrace to house the recently demolished structures. In the south portion of the site a ditch and a gully along with a second possible ditch or furrow contained no close dating evidence but are not obviously of any great antiquity. Three flint flakes point to some prehistoric activity in the general area. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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Land at Knight Close, Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and Lizzi Lewins

Report 15/57

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Knight Close, Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire (SU 7910 5256) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Tim Kearon of Taylor Wimpey West London, Stratfield House, Station Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9PQ.

Planning permission (14/01152/MAJOR) has been gained from Hart District Council to develop the site for housing. The permission is subject to conditions (16–18) relating to archaeology, which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. A single component of work was proposed at this stage; namely field evaluation by means of machine trenching. Dependent on the findings of this evaluation, further archaeological work may have been required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray and Sophie Frampton on 1st June 2015 and Tim Dawson on 26th October 2015 with the site code KCH 15/57. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises an irregular parcel of land located on the western margins of Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire, centred on NGR SU 7910 5256 (Fig. 1). The site currently consists of a mix of pasture and woodland to the west of Knight Close and a large greenhouse, which was formerly a plant nursery. The nursery structures were demolished prior to the archaeological work, though several overhead services remain and tree root protection zones are present around the site margins over. The ground slopes steeply from the east at a height of *c.*75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) down to the west at a lowest of *c.*67.5m aOD. The central portion of the site was

occupied by a large artificial terrace constructed of made ground with some cut having taken place. The underlying geology is recorded as Windlesham Beds (BGS 1981) which was observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of this area of north-eastern Hampshire, until relatively recently, was poorly understood and little known. The most distinctive archaeology was concerned with the late medieval and early post-medieval pottery industry (e.g. NEHHAS 2014). However recent fieldwork, such as at Hitches Lane, Fleet, to the north has revealed both Middle Bronze Age and Roman settlement (Pine 2009), and recent fieldwork at the former Church Crookham barracks to the east has revealed Iron Age remains. Crookham village (with Church Crookham) is of medieval origin and retains a number of 17th century buildings.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required

It was proposed to excavate 21 trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were to be dug by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist with the spoil removed being monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed where to be excavated and sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

During the initial phase of fieldwork it was revealed that much of the terraced area at the centre of the site had been previously truncated by landscaping before being backfilled with made ground. Trenches intended to target this location were abandoned and only eight trenches were eventually dug in those areas less obviously disturbed by previous development.

The trenches measured between 6.60m and 20.80m long and between 0.38–1.31m deep (Fig. 2). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned SE-NW and was 20.50m long and 0.78m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.33m of subsoil overlying natural light yellow grey sandy clay geology. Ditch 1 which was aligned north-south was 1.64m wide and 0.49m deep and contained two distinct fills (52 and 53). Both fills were firmly compacted sandy clays, with 52 being mid grey brown in colour with orange mottling and fill 53 was light blue grey. South of this ditch and similarly aligned was Gully 2 which was 0.21m wide and 0.11m deep and had gradual sides and a curved base. The single fill 54 was light blue grey sandy clay. A narrow flake flint was recovered from the spoil.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE and was 20.8m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.27m of subsoil overlying natural orangey grey sandy clay geology. A test pit was dug in the SW end of the trench to a depth of 0.83m to confirm the interpretation of the sandy clay as natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned S-N and was 19.2m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil directly overlying natural light, grey yellow silty clay geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned N-S and was 20.1m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil directly overlying grey yellow clay natural geology. A single possible shallow ditch (3) or possibly a furrow was recorded at the southern end which was 1.56m wide but only 0.09m deep and aligned roughly east-west. The orange brown clay silt fill (55) produced 2 pieces of struck flint, but these are unlikely to provide a date for the ditch other than the most general *terminus post quem*.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned SW–NE and was 19.2m long and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m topsoil and 0.26m of subsoil overlying natural grey brown clay silt geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned SSW–NNE and was 19.7m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil overlying natural yellow grey silty clay geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Pl. 4)

Trench 7 was aligned W–E in the north-east corner of the site, and was 17.9m long and 1.07m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of mixed topsoil/rubble made ground, 0.14m of gravely made ground, 0.26m of clayey made ground and 0.42m of subsoil overlying natural mid blue yellow silty clay geology. The geology at the eastern end of the trench from 15.4m onwards was observed as reddish yellow silty clay. Large pieces of modern concrete and brick footings were removed from the western end of the trench and tree roots were noted in the centre of the trench. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

Trench 8

Trench 8, towards the north-west of the site, was aligned SW–NE and was 6.6m long and 1.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 1.29m of mixed topsoil, subsoil and natural geology containing modern rubble overlying natural reddish yellow silty clay geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

Three struck flints were recovered from the evaluation, all flakes. Two of the flakes are relatively long and thin, (narrow flakes) but are not obviously a product of blade manufacture typical of the Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic. All three pieces are quite heavily abraded. None of the pieces are closely datable and only a broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Tr 1 spoil: Narrow flake

Tr 4 3 (55): Narrow flake; broken flake

Conclusion

During the evaluation it became apparent that much of the site had been truncated by landscaping and subsequent levelling up with modern made ground up to 4m deep resulting in little of the site remaining to have any archaeological potential. As a result of this the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site decreased significantly, and no deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. The three struck flints point to a little prehistoric activity in the area but are unlikely to represent more than simple casual loss or discard in the landscape. It is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

References

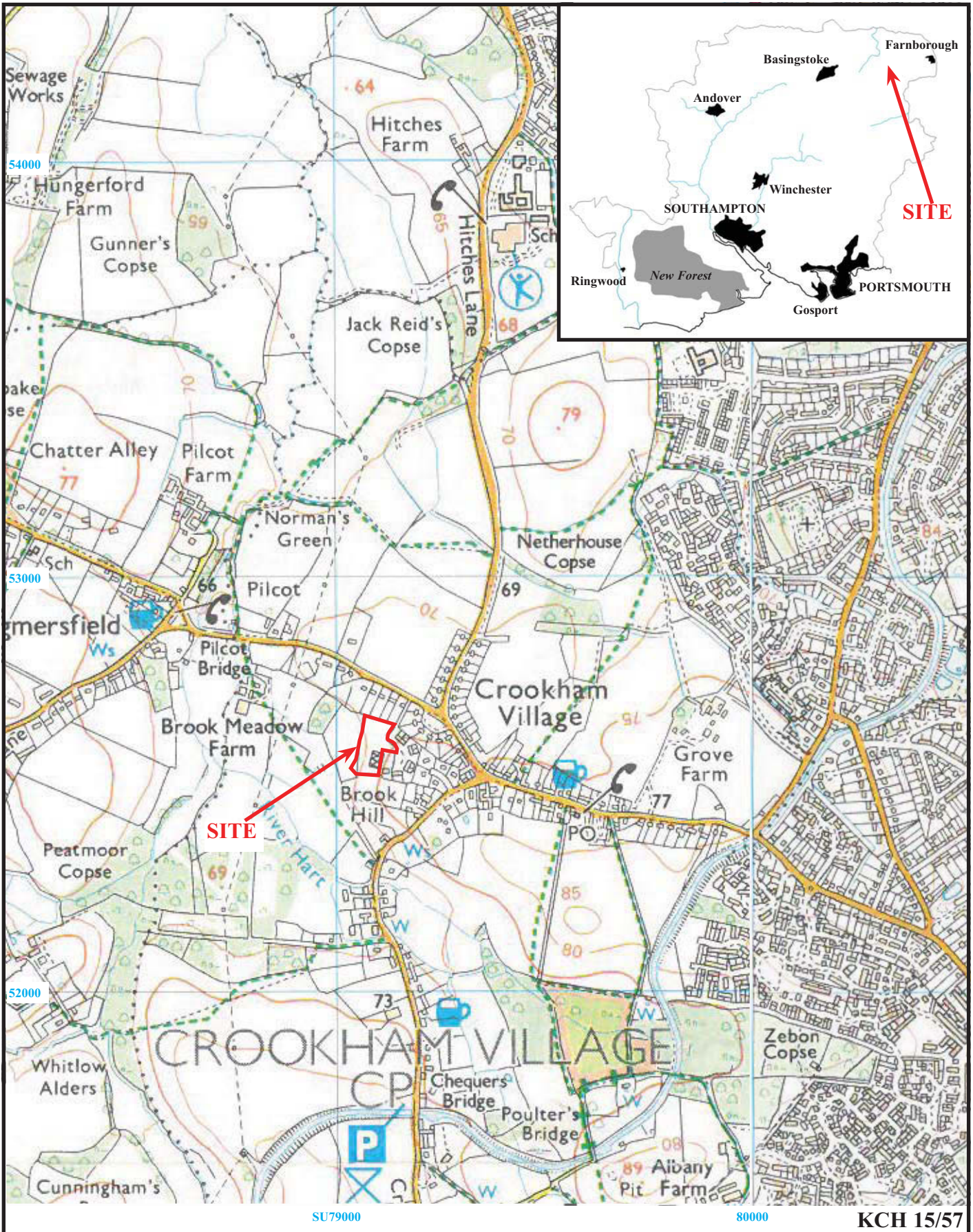
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.50	1.60	0.78	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.63m Subsoil; 0.63m+ light yellow grey sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 1 and gully 2 [Pls 1 and 3]
2	20.80	1.60	0.53	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.53m; subsoil; 0.53m+ orangey grey sandy clay natural geology.
3	19.20	1.60	0.42	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m light grey yellow silty clay natural geology
4	21.00	1.60	0.38	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38m+ grey yellow clay natural geology. Ditch or furrow 3 [Pl. 2]
5	19.20	1.60	0.80	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.54m subsoil; 0.54m+ grey brown clay silt natural geology
6	19.70	1.60	0.70	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ yellow grey sandy clay natural geology
7	17.90	1.60	1.07	0-0.25m mixed topsoil/rubble made ground; 0.25m-0.39m gravely made ground; 0.39m-0.65m clayey made ground; 0.65m-1.07m subsoil; 1.07m+ mid blue yellow silty clay natural geology (reddish yellow at Eastern end) [Pl. 4]
8	6.60	1.60	1.31	0-1.29m mixed topsoil/subsoil/natural containing modern rubble; 1.29m+ reddish yellow silty clay natural geology

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

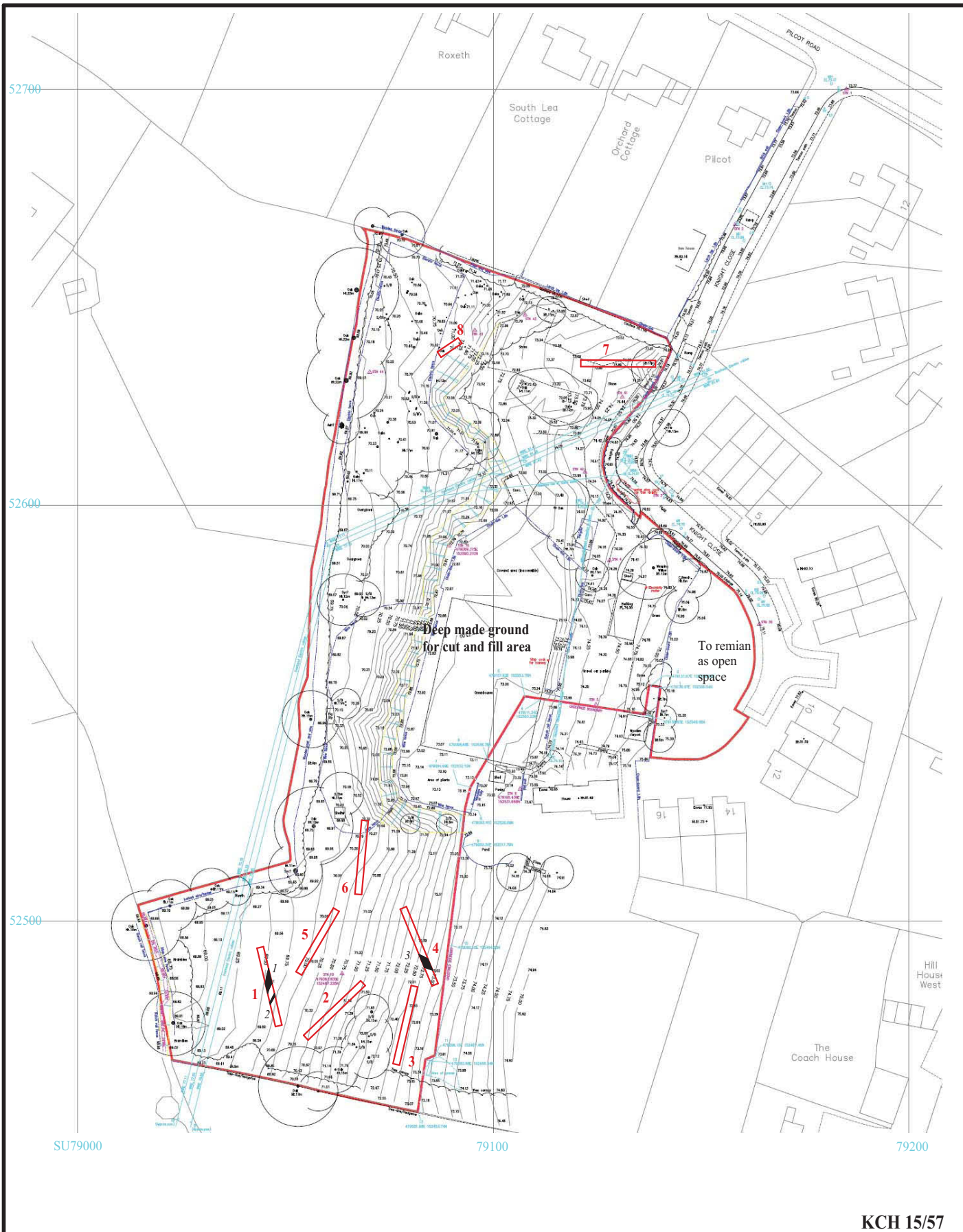
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	52, 53	Ditch		
1	2	54	Gully		
4	3	55	Possible ditch or furrow		



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Figure 1. Location of site within Crookham and Hampshire.

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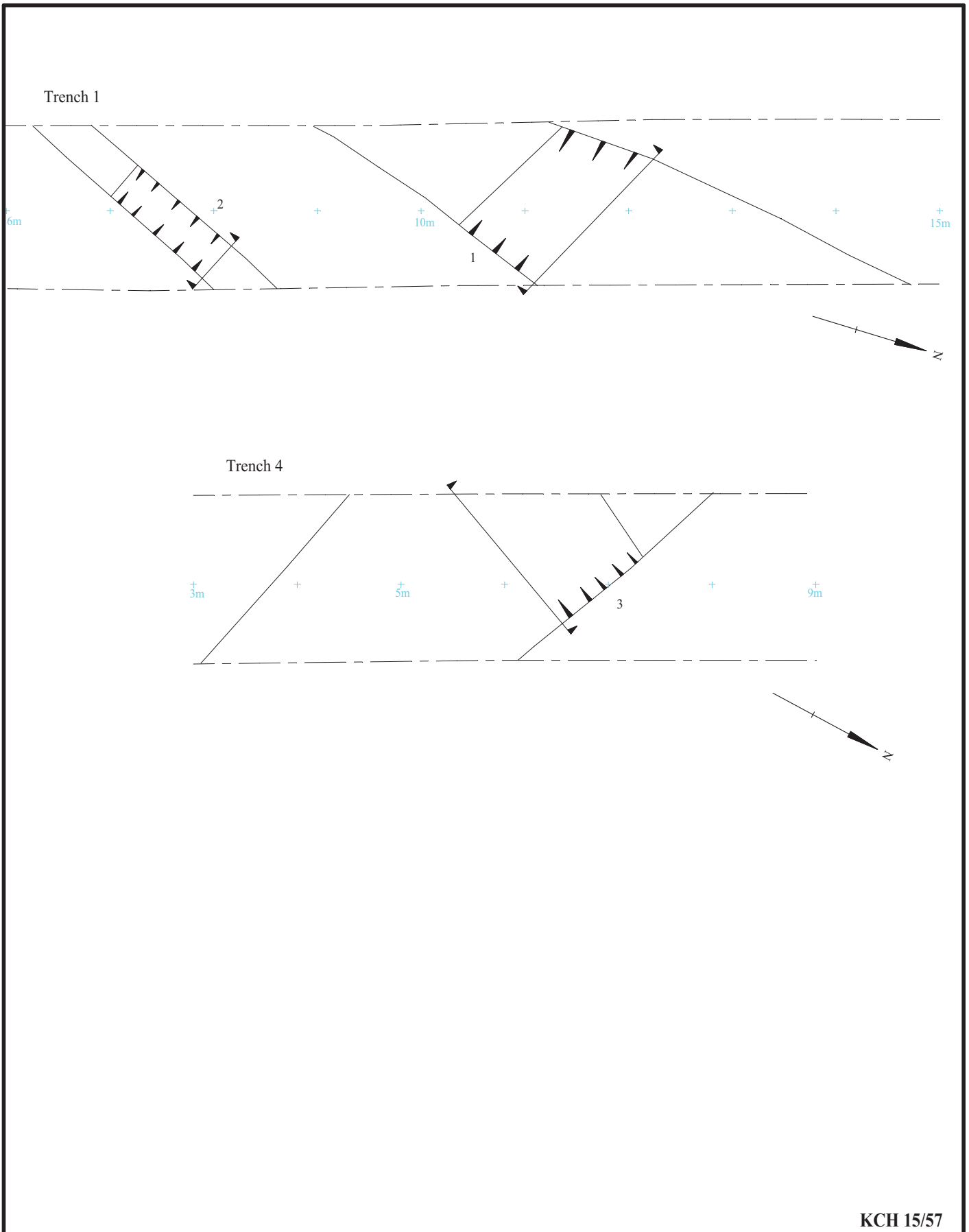
Figure 2. Location of trenches, also showing site contours.

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0

125m

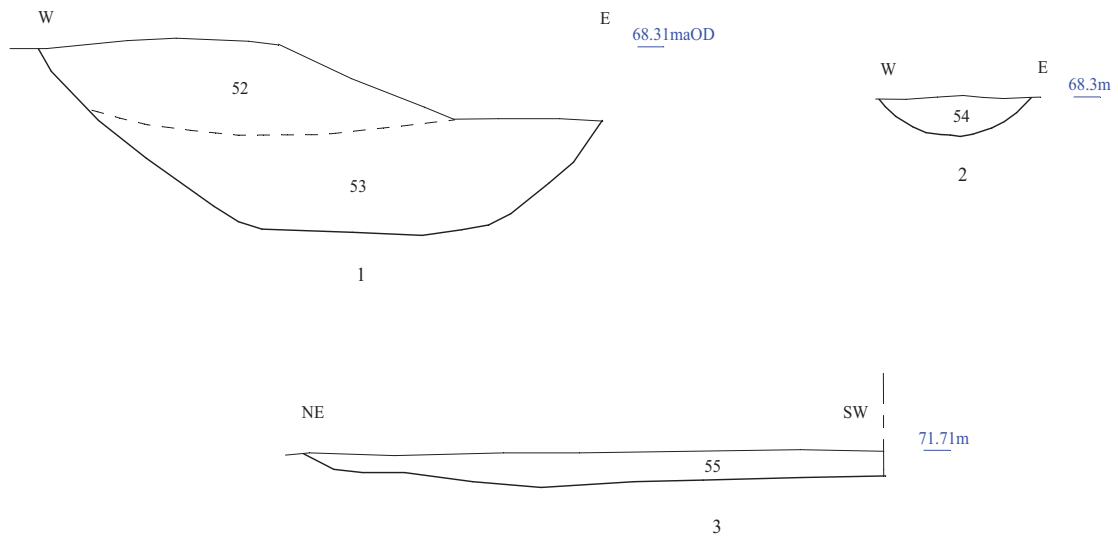


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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.





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Figure 4. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 1, ditch 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, looking east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 5. Trench 8, looking north east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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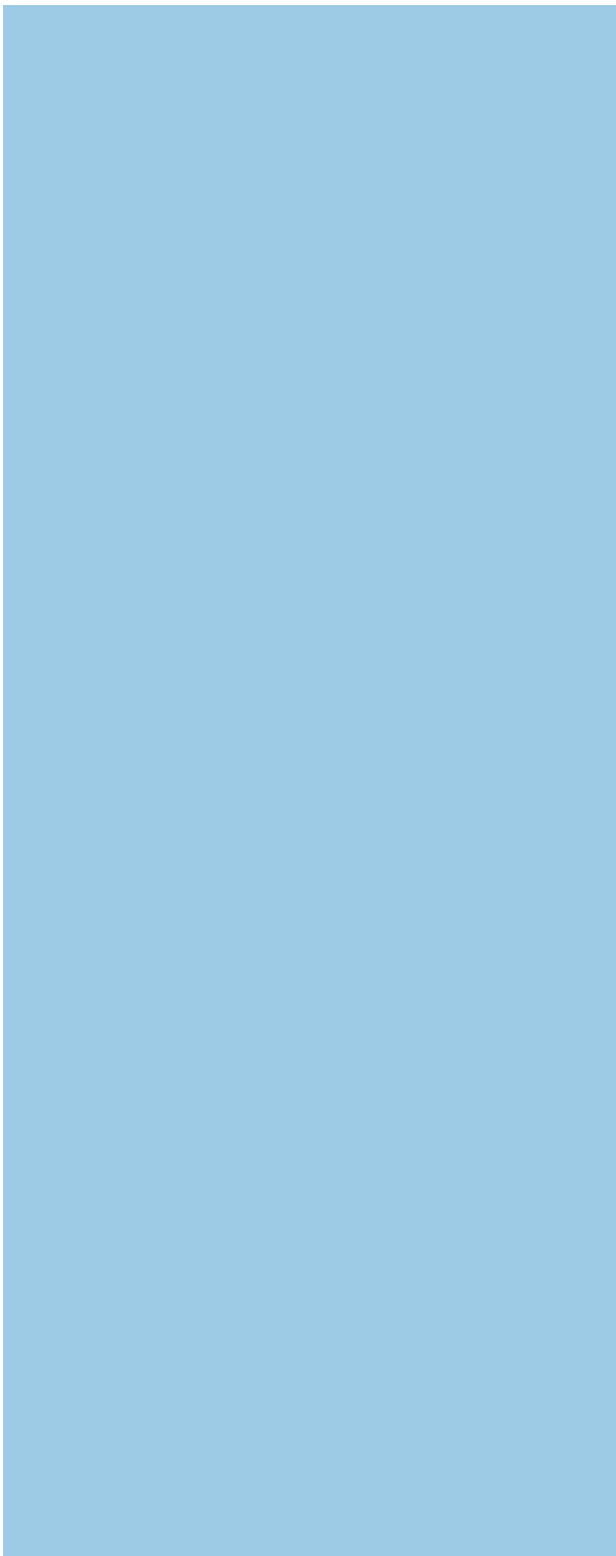
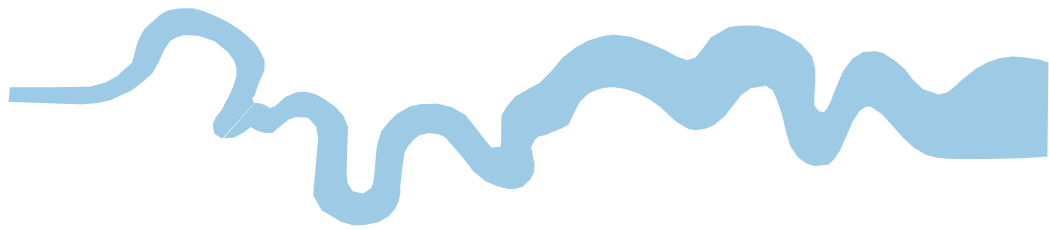
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Plates 3 - 5.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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